Appl. No. 10/002,015

Amdt. dated November 4, 2004 ·

Reply to Office Action of September 8, 2004

IN THE CLAIMS

Please replace the claim listing as follows:

Claim 1 (previously presented): A registration device for a sheet material article handler, the

registration device comprising:

a movable backstop configured to sequentially engage a leading edge portion of a sheet

material article moving in a direction of movement of the sheet material article along a path of

movement of the sheet material article in the sheet material article handler so as to register the

sheet material article relative to the sheet material article handler; and

a driver configured to move the backstop along an arcuate path in the direction of

movement of the sheet material article from a first position out of the path of movement to a

second position in the path of movement, the driver being configured to rotate the backstop about

an axis in a single angular direction so as to define the arcuate path, the axis being disposed at a

movable table of the sheet material article handler.

Claim 2 (original): The registration device as recited in claim 1 wherein the driver is configured

to move the backstop along the arcuate path to the second position so as to follow a trailing edge

of the sheet material article as the sheet material article moves along the path of movement of the

sheet material article.

Claim 3 (original): The registration device as recited in claim 1 wherein the driver is further

configured to move the backstop further along the arcuate path from the second position to a

third position out of the path of movement of the sheet material article.

Claim 4 (canceled).

Claim 5 (canceled).

Claim 6 (canceled).

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Claim 7 (canceled).

Claim 8 (previously presented): The registration device as recited in claim 1 wherein the driver

is configured to move the backstop along the arcuate path from the first position to the second

position as the table is moving in a direction opposite the direction of movement of the sheet

material article along the path of movement of the sheet material article.

Claim 9 (previously presented): The registration device as recited in claim 1 wherein the axis is

capable of being repositioned relative to the table.

Claim 10 (previously presented): The registration device as recited in claim 9 wherein the sheet

material article handler is a sheet material article trimmer and the movable table is a front

trimmer table, the repositioning of the axis changing a distance between an engagement surface

of the backstop and a knife of the front trimmer when the backstops are in the second position.

Claim 11 (original): The registration device as recited in claim 1 wherein the arcuate path is

circular.

Claim 12 (original): The registration device as recited in claim 1 wherein the backstop includes

an elongated member, the elongated member being disposed generally perpendicular to the path

of movement of the sheet material article when the backstop is in the second position.

Claim 13 (original): The registration device as recited in claim 1 wherein the driver includes an

intermittent drive mechanism configured to move the backstop along the arcuate path in

synchronization with the moving of the sheet material article along the path of movement of the

sheet material article.

Claim 14 (original): The registration device as recited in claim 13 wherein the intermittent drive

mechanism is driven from a main drive of the sheet material article handler.

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Claim 15 (original): The registration device as recited in claim 1 wherein the driver includes a servo motor.

Claim 16 (original): The registration device as recited in claim 1 wherein the sheet material article handler is a sheet material article trimmer.

Claim 17 (original): The registration device as recited in claim 1 wherein the sheet material article handler is a sheet material article printer.

Claim 18 (previously presented): A method for registering a sheet material article in a sheet material article handler, the method comprising:

sequentially engaging, using a movable backstop, a leading edge portion of a sheet material article moving in a direction of movement of the sheet material article along a path of movement of the sheet material article in the sheet material article handler so as to register the sheet material article relative to the sheet material article handler; and

moving the backstop along an arcuate path in the direction of movement of the sheet material article from a first position out of the path of movement to a second position in the path of movement using a driver, the driver being configured to rotate the backstop about an axis in a single angular direction so as to define the arcuate path, the axis being disposed at a movable table of the sheet material article handler.

Claim 19 (original): The method as recited in claim 18 wherein the moving along the arcuate path is performed so as to move the backstop to follow a trailing edge of the sheet material article as the sheet material article moves along the path of movement of the sheet material article and the backstop moves to the second position.

Claim 20 (original): The method as recited in claim 18 further comprising moving the backstop further along the arcuate path from the second position to a third position out of the path of movement of the sheet material article using the driver.

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Claim 21 (new): A sheet material article handler comprising:

a movable table;

a movable backstop configured to sequentially engage a leading edge portion of a sheet material article moving in a direction of movement of the sheet material article along a path of movement of the sheet material article in the sheet material article handler so as to register the sheet material article relative to the movable table; and

a driver driving both the movable table and the movable backstop and configured to move the backstop along an arcuate path in the direction of movement of the sheet material article from a first position out of the path of movement to a second position in the path of movement, the driver being configured to rotate the backstop about an axis in a single angular direction so as to define the arcuate path.

Claim 22 (new): The sheet material article handler as recited in claim 21 further comprising a worm gear moving the movable table with respect to the movable backstop.